

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B₂ 27. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the recipient block holder comprises an x-y positioning device that can be incrementally moved to align sequential receptacles and the reciprocal punch.

B₃ 29. (Twice amended) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising a positioner for positioning over the donor block a reference slide that includes at least one structure of interest, to align the at least one structure of interest in the reference slide with corresponding tissue specimen regions in the donor block.

30. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising a second reciprocal punch capable of being positioned relative to the recipient block for punching the array of receptacles in the recipient block, wherein the second reciprocal punch is different than the reciprocal punch positioned to punch the specimen from the tissue donor block.

B₄ 36. (Twice amended) The recipient block of claim 26, wherein the recipient block comprises a regular array of spaced biological specimens in fixed assigned locations.

[Please add the following claims:]

B₅ 51. (New) An apparatus for preparing specimens for parallel analysis of biological material arrays, comprising:

means for holding a tissue donor block in a donor position;

means for extracting a tissue specimen from the tissue donor block when the tissue donor block is in the donor position; and

means for holding a recipient block in a recipient position, wherein the recipient block comprises an array of receptacles, each of which is positionable in a preselected position in

relation to the means for extracting a tissue specimen to deliver a tissue specimen from the means for extracting a tissue specimen into a receptacle in the preselected position.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the tissue specimen can be delivered from the reciprocal punch directly into a receptacle in the preselected position.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising an x-y positioning platform coupled to the donor block holder and the recipient block holder.

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cont.
54. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising a reference slide positioner that includes at least one slide that extends between opposing walls of the donor block holder.

55. (New) A device for preparing biological material arrays, comprising:
a platform that includes at least one guide for positioning a tissue donor block holder or a recipient block holder; and

a punch apparatus that includes a guide surface, a punch base slidably mounted on the guide surface, and a punch received within the punch base that can be aligned with the tissue block holder or the recipient block holder.

56. (New) The device of claim 55, further comprising means for sliding the punch base.

57. (New) The device of claim 55, further comprising a reference slide positioner interposed between the platform and the punch apparatus.

58. (New) An apparatus for preparing specimens for biological material arrays, comprising:

- an x-y positioning platform;
- a tissue donor block holder disposed on the x-y positioning platform;
- a recipient block holder disposed on the x-y positioning platform; and
- at least one reciprocal punch coupled to the x-y positioning platform.

59. (New) An integrated apparatus for preparing specimens for parallel analysis of sections of biological material arrays, comprising:

a donor block holder that can hold a tissue donor block in a donor position;

a reciprocal punch positioned in relation to the donor block holder that can punch a tissue specimen from the tissue donor block when the donor block is in the donor position; and

a recipient block holder that can hold a recipient block in a recipient position, wherein the recipient block comprises an array or receptacles, each of which is positionable in a preselected position in relation to the reciprocal punch to deliver a tissue specimen from the reciprocal punch into a receptacle in the preselected position.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, further comprising a positioner that can position over the donor block a reference slide that includes at least one structure of interest, to align the at least one structure of interest in the reference slide with corresponding tissue specimen regions in the donor block.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, further comprising a second reciprocal punch capable of being positioned relative to the recipient block for punching the array of receptacles in the recipient block, wherein the second reciprocal punch is different than the reciprocal punch positioned to punch the specimen from the tissue donor block.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the diameter of the reciprocal punch positioned to punch the specimen from the tissue donor block is greater than the diameter of the second reciprocal punch.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the diameter of the reciprocal punch positioned to punch the specimen from the tissue donor block is greater than the diameter of the second reciprocal punch.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising z-direction positioning means for the reciprocal punch.